

September 10, 2004

MPR-10-04

Corn Yields Up, Soybeans Unchanged

Maryland: Based on September 1 crop conditions, **corn** for grain yield is forecast at 143 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels per acre from last month's forecast of 141 bushels per acre. With an anticipated harvest of 440,000 acres, total production is forecast at 62.9 million bushels. The corn crop is doing very well. According to the Weekly Crop and Weather Report for the week ending August 29, corn condition was rated 44 percent excellent, 35 percent good, 16 percent fair, 3 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor.

Soybean yields are forecast at 38 bushels per acre, unchanged from the August 1 forecast. Growers expect to harvest 490,000 acres of soybeans, for a total production of 18.6 million bushels. The condition of the soybean crop is rated very good. The Weekly Crop and Weather Report for the week ending August 29 reports the soybean condition at 30 percent rated excellent, 47 percent good, 18 percent fair, and 5 percent poor.

Tobacco production, based on September 1 conditions, is forecast at 1.76 million pounds, 10 percent above the August 1 forecast. Yields are expected to be 1,600 pounds per acre, setting a new record yield in Maryland. Harvested acreage remains unchanged at 1,100 acres, same as 2003.

Potato production is forecast at 1.2 million cwt, unchanged from the August 1 forecast. Harvested acres is forecast at 4,600 acres with an expected yield of 260 cwt per acre.

United States: Corn production is forecast at 11.0 billion bushels, up fractionally from last month and 8 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 149.4 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from August and 7.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Yields are forecast at record high levels in all Corn Belt States, except Minnesota and Wisconsin, as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season. However, brief periods of freezing temperatures in the northern Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the Great Plains raised concerns about the crop being able to fully develop before a killing frost occurs.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.84 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the August forecast but 17 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the second highest production on record. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 38.5 bushels per acre, down 0.6 bushel from August. Below-normal temperatures and adequate moisture across most of the Corn Belt, the Great Plains, and the Delta in August favored the soybean crop during the critical stages of development. However, yield prospects declined in the northern tier of States due to cool weather. A brief period of freezing temperatures slowed the development of a crop already behind in maturity in North Dakota and Minnesota.

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ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2003 AND 2004

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Maryland		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	480	510	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	410	440	123	143	50,430	62,920
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	65	----	16	----	1,040	----
Soybeans	BU	435	500	430	490	37	38	15,910	18,620
Sorghum ¹	BU	6	5	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	3	3	65	----	195	----
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	3	----	10	----	30	----
Winter Wheat	BU	165	160	145	145	37	59	5,365	8,555
Barley	BU	45	37	38	34	57	75	2,166	2,550
All Hay	TON	----	----	195	205	2.8	----	539	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	45	35	3.3	----	149	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	150	170	2.6	----	390	----
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	1.1	1.1	1,450	1,600	1,595	1,760
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	40,000	34,000
Peaches	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	8,500	8,800
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	240	260	1,104	1,196
United States								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	78,736	80,968	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	71,139	73,377	142	149	10,114	10,961
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	6,528	----	16	----	106	----
Soybeans	BU	73,404	74,809	72,321	73,655	33.4	38.5	2,418	2,836
Sorghum ¹	BU	9,420	8,099	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	7,798	6,916	52.7	68.3	411	472
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	343	----	10.4	----	4	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	44,945	43,450	36,541	34,825	47	43	1,707	1,489
Barley	BU	5,299	4,666	4,688	4,152	59	66	276	273
All Hay	TON	----	----	63,342	61,589	2.48	2.63	157	162
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	23,578	22,226	3.24	3.48	76	77
Other Hay	TON	----	----	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.15	81	84
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	411.2	414.0	1,952	2,134	803	883
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	8,613	9,366
Peaches	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	2,519	2,598
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	63.4	58.8	58.7	55.1	320	336	19	18

¹ Acres planted is for all purpose.